

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06148 140833Z
ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6148

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT KS US
SUBJ: ASIA FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES IN KOREA

REF: A. SEOUL 5853, B. STATE 168216, C. SEOUL A-77

1. REF A CONCURS IN THE ASIA FOUNDATION'S PROPOSED PROGRAMS (REF B) FOR FURTHERING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIAN COUNTRIES. GIVEN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE ROK, SUCH A MODEST BEGINNING IS PROBABLY ALL THAT COULD BE SUCCESSFUL AT PRESENT TIME. AS THESE TWO PROGRAMS PROGRESS AND ARE SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE MORE CENTRAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED. ASIA FOUNDATION COULD GO FURTHER AND TACKLE THE MORE BASIC AND IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION OF INCREASING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. WE RECOMMEND FOR EXAMPLE PROJECTS WORKING WITH MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND ASIA FOUNDATION TAKES THE VIEW THAT IT IS EASIER FOR IT TO WORK WITH ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT DOES IN FACT PRESENT AN EASY AND AVAILABLE INSTITUTION WITH WHICH TO WORK.

3. WITH RESPECT TO REF (C), EMBASSY LIMITED DISTRIBUTION (STADIS) IN ORDER TO ALLOW DEPARTMENT OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW CONCEPTS OF THE PAPER AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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TAINED PRIOR TO WIDER DISSEMINATION. EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT, UNLESS THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES, THIS LIMITED DISTRIBUTION BE REMOVED AND THE PAPER BE CIRCULATED MORE WIDELY. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE A COPY TO THE ASIA FOUNDATION SO THAT FUTURE PLANNING CAN DRAW UPON IT AS REQUIRED.

4. WE WOULD HOPE THAT, GIVEN THE LEVEL OF USG SUPPORT
FOR THE FOUNDATION, THE DEPARTMENT COULD URGE FOUNDATION
EFFORT IN AREAS WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THE INSTITUTION
BUILDING THRUST OF REF (C).
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